

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, July 18, 2001 **S** 9:00 a.m. **S** Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. John W. Hickman,
Senate Chair
Rep. Craig W. Buttars,
House Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Millie M. Peterson
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Rep. Don E. Bush
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Bradley A. Winn
Rep. Peggy Wallace

Members Excused:

President Al Mansell
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon,
Research Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Cassandra Bauman,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and handouts distributed are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Bigelow absent for the vote.

3. Progress Report on One-Stop Shopping Vehicle Registration

Mr. Richard Clasby, Administrator, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), explained some of the projects that the department is currently undertaking, under the Commercial Vehicle Inspection and Safety Networking System:

- (1) Installation of Covers - the Utah State Tax Commission's international registration plan and international fuel tax agreement legacy system, with the options of placing the system throughout ports of entry in the state or put the system in the Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices in the state.
- (2) Prism - federally funded project that links that Utah Department of Transportation Public Safety and the Utah State Tax Commission databases together. This would

allow Department of Transportation requirements to be met at any location. It would connect the safety components of UDOT with the registration components of the Utah State Tax Commission. He explained that the funding for this project could also be cross utilized to other projects.

- (3) Commercial Vehicle Inspection and Enforcement Window (CVIEW) - the number one priority for the department, which would link all of the databases together in order to facilitate the three other projects. He stated that this project is scheduled to be developed by fall of this year.
- (4) E-Credentialing - this project has been on the charts for a number of years, it would allow credit checks electronically via the world wide web.

He stated that these projects will help create either a virtual or fiscal one stop shopping.

Mr. Kevin Park, Utah State Tax Commission, stated that the Commission is in discussion with R.L. Poulk, for the Installation of Covers project, in order to distribute the system throughout Utah. He said that this project is currently only at the DMV office by the airport.

Mr. Don Ibson, President, Utah Trucking Association, expressed his opinion in favor of projects to be enacted at DMV offices, in order to utilize resources most effectively.

Mr. Barry Conover, Utah State Tax Commission, stated that the State Tax Commission would be coming back in September to present how the projects are proceeding. He expressed that the expectations of meeting time frames should not be held too highly, that implementation of these projects would take some time.

4. Board and Commissions

Mr. John Cannon introduced the issue and gave a brief background on the issue. He stated that the committee had requested further review of boards and commissions, in order to modify or eliminate those that are not as effective as they ought to be.

Ms. Nancy K. Brown, Office of the Governor, distributed a handout, "Potential Study Items for State Boards and Commissions." She explained that she has reviewed the boards and commissions that she believed to no longer be active and stated that she attended one of the Governor's cabinet meetings. She stated that, in those meetings, many of the state department's executive directors were in attendance and had indicated to them the committee's desire to study this issue and invited them to inform the committee about any concerns in their departments.

Ms. Brown indicated that Ms. Kathleen Clark, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, had expressed to her concern about policy boards compared to advisory boards within her department.

Mr. Sherman Anderson, Research Assistant, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, distributed a handout, "2001 Advisory Board, Committee, Commission, Council, Survey Report," including the "2001 Survey Results" and "Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Councils Recommended for Further Study;" as well as charts on the preceding issues. He explained the survey and its results to the committee. Ms. Brown stated that the boards have various reasons for why they are inactive and that this information may be useful when considering action.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved that the committees and boards listed on the handouts provided be invited to the next committee meeting in order for the committee to receive further information; and that staff contact the committees or boards who did not respond to the Mr. Anderson's survey to be invited as well. Committee discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Roger Ball, Administrative Secretary, Committee of Consumer Services, Department of Commerce, stated that the Committee of Consumer Services had not received the survey. He inquired how it was distributed and to whom. Mr. Anderson explained that the department chairs were contacted and asked to give information about any advisory boards that might need review by the committee. Mr. Cannon clarified that the survey was sent to all advisory boards specifically and not necessarily policy boards.

Mr. John Fellows stated that a letter would be sent out regarding the September meeting to the chairs of the boards to give them an opportunity to discuss the boards.

5. Election Reform

Mr. Fellows distributed a handout "Options for Review of Election Laws and Procedures Proposed by Various Groups" and explained that staff had collected information concerning changes to improve election law at the request of the committee. He pointed out that Utah already has a Statewide Voter Registration Database, yet that it might be something to consider for study.

Ms. Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections, Lieutenant Governor's Office, suggested that the committee study clarifying and strengthening power of Lieutenant Governor and county clerks to issue interpretations and make suggestions (17) and establishing counting process, criteria, and standards (7).

Ms. Leslie Gertsch, Utah Council of the Blind, inquired whether the issue of accessibility of voting for the disabled would be an issue that is studied by the committee. Mr. Cannon explained that legislation passed in the 2001 General Session requires that the Lieutenant Governor's Office look into that issue and report to the committee in the fall. She invited all committee members who wish to attend a conference at the Center for the Blind on July 28, 2001 for a display of several types of voting equipment.

Ms. Terri Lynn Pomeroy, Utah Council of the Blind, stated that several companies would be showing their equipment for voting on the 28th of this month. She stated that the equipment will include: voice printing, telephone balloting, paper balloting, touch screens, etc.

Mr. Stuart Wallace, Citizens for Fair Vote Count, stated that hard copy ballots are necessary for honesty as well as accuracy in recount voting. He suggested consideration of citizen checks and balances within the voting system. He expressed his concern for the accuracy of the computer for the votes, and offered his opinion to have manual vote counts as a general rule.

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved that the following items be studied in 2001: providing for a provisional ballot (3); establishing/strengthening certification and testing for voting machines and equipment (6); establishing counting process, criteria, and standards (7); reviewing automated and manual recount procedures and standards (9); addressing issues involving overseas citizen voters (10); and creating/funding a Statewide Voter Registration Database (15); as well as study of an independent election commission. Rep. Bigelow requested that the motion be divided. The motion to study items 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 15 passed unanimously. The study of the independent elections commission failed with Sen. Allen, Sen. Peterson, and Rep. Hansen voting in favor of the motion.

6. Election Campaign Fund Checkoff Monies

Mr. Fellows distributed "Elections Campaign Fund - Policy Issues" and explained that the practice does not comply with what the law (59-10-547 and 548) requires. He stated that two issues are brought forth: (1) meeting regularly and authorize expenditures of the funds and (2) distributing funds to the state and county central committees.

Ms. Nancy Lord, Treasurer, Salt Lake County Republican Party, stated that the funds are being directly deposited into the party's account by the State Treasurer's Office. She said that the statute is not being complied to; she was not even aware of it.

Mr. Todd Taylor, Executive Director, Utah Democratic Party, provided background for the structure of political parties, in regards to central committees, county parties, etc. He stated that the section of the Code mentioned was not considered when legislation was drafted concerning political parties structure in 1994.

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved that staff draft legislation for distribution of funds to political parties as it is currently being practiced. Committee discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bigelow absent for the vote.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bigelow absent for the vote.

